

IMITATING POETS

Imitating the poetry of famous authors can be a great way to practice writing poetry. In the novel, *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech, a boy named Jack, who is the narrator of the story, imitates that famous poem by William Carlos Williams entitled "The Red Wheelbarrow."

The Red Wheelbarrow

by William Carlos Williams

so much depends
upon

a red wheel
barrow

glazed with rain
water

beside the white
chickens.

Imitation

so much depends
upon

a blue car

splattered with mud

speeding down the
road

As the reader will find out later, an important event occurs in Jack's life related to the blue car, and so Jack's imitation of the Williams' poem works well for style as well as content.

Assignment Directions: Using your selected book of poetry, find a poem that you like by the poet of your choice and write an imitation of that poem. The poem should be at least 8-10 lines in length. If the original poem that you choose to imitate is longer than this, you may choose to imitate just a few stanzas instead. The poem you create should reflect your poet's style, including the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">the form or type of poem, whether sonnet, ballad, narrative, lyric, free verse, or other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">specific words and phrases that create sensory images
<ul style="list-style-type: none">sound elements of poetry that contribute to meaning (i.e. rhyme, rhyme scheme, rhythm, alliteration, assonance, consonance, meter, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">use of poetic or literary devices such as repetition, imagery, dialogue, point of view, allusion, parallelism, juxtaposition, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">the use of other figurative language (i.e., similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole)	

Some imitations are done in a humorous way; as with other literature, these are called parodies. If you wish, your imitation may be a parody, rather than a serious imitation. (See back for example of a poem imitation that is a parody based on Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven.")

Your serious imitation or parody must include an explanation in regards to ALL of the required items listed above (List line numbers and/or examples in your poem). Remember that you have to include an imitation in your portfolio, so you might consider writing about your selected topic, whether in a serious or humorous way.

Your imitation should be typed and you should submit the originally selected poem (the one you are imitating) with your own original imitation.

Excerpt from "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe:

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.
'Tis some visitor,' I muttered, 'tapping at my chamber door -
Only this, and nothing more.'

Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December,
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.
Eagerly I wished the morrow; - vainly I had sought to borrow
From my books surcease of sorrow - sorrow for the lost Lenore -
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels named Lenore
Nameless here for evermore.

And the silken sad uncertain rustling of each purple curtain
Thrilled me - filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before;
So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating
'Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door -
Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door; -
This it is, and nothing more,'

Presently my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no longer,
'Sir,' said I, 'or Madam, truly your forgiveness I implore;
But the fact is I was napping, and so gently you came rapping,
And so faintly you came tapping, tapping at my chamber door,
That I scarce was sure I heard you' - here I opened wide the door; -
Darkness there, and nothing more.

Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing,
Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before
But the silence was unbroken, and the darkness gave no token,
And the only word there spoken was the whispered word, 'Lenore!'
This I whispered, and an echo murmured back the word, 'Lenore!'
Merely this and nothing more.

"A School Day" (Parody of Poe's "Raven")

Once upon a schoolday rotten
Came some bullies and they were plot'n
To mop my head across the bathroom floor
A mop mop mopping across the bathroom floor
Only this and nothing more

When all of a sudden there came a rapping
A tap tap tapping on the bathroom door
Only my head and nothing more

I started to scream to show my displeasure
but they wanted to open my head like some kind of
treasure
and spill the contents across the bathroom floor.
Only this and nothing more

Oh won't these bullies please let me be
I promise I'll give them all of my money
and after they wiped me across the bathroom floor
they took this and nothing more.

So they just quit the beating right out of the blue
I guess it was because school's out it's five after two
but they dismissed it as if they were now bored
only this and nothing more

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